

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 01989 150754Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1989

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, EEC, DA

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON FORTHCOMING EC SUMMIT

REF: COPENHAGEN 1922 AND LONDON 10668

1. IN A WEEKEND STATEMENT PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN
MADE IT CLEAR THAT DENMARK DID NOT WANT TO SEE THE EC
HEADS OF GOVERNMENT DISCUSS A EUROPEAN UNION AT THEIR MEETING
THIS WEEK, AT LEAST ALONG THE LINES OF THE DISCUSSION WHICH
RECENTLY TOOK PLACE AT THE EC PARLIAMENT AT STRASBOURG.

"WE DANES WOULD FIND IT MORE APPROPRIATE IF ANY SUCH
DISCUSSION IS POSTPONED TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE HEADS OF
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PAGE 02 COPENH 01989 150754Z

GOVERNMENT IN ROME IN DECEMBER...I WISH TO EMPHASIZE

THAT DENMARK'S POSITION TOWARD EUROPEAN COOPERATION IS DECIDEDLY POSITIVE, BUT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PARLIAMENT AGREE THAT THIS COOPERATION CAN BE SUPPORTED BEST BY AN EFFECTIVE EFFORT IN REGARD TO THE MAJOR AND ACUTE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMY, ESTABLISHING AN ENERGY POLICY, COOPERATING IN CURRENCY MATTERS, AND SOLVING ENVIRONMENTAL AND POLLUTION PROBLEMS". JORGENSEN ADDED THAT THOSE EC COUNTRIES WITH THE STRONGEST BALANCES OF PAYMENT OUGHT TO LEAD THE WAY. "IT IS A DANGEROUS SIGN THAT INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES DISTORT CONDITIONS FOR COMPETITION THROUGH GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION AND STATE SUPPORT." (COMMENT: A SOMEWHAT "HOLIER THAN THOU" ATTITUDE WHICH DOES NOT BEAR CLOSE SCRUTINY.)

2. JORGENSEN WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN TO THE SUMMIT IN BRUSSELS ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY. DENMARK WILL BE REPRESENTED AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING BY IVAR NORGAARD, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. BOTH MINISTERS SHARE JORGENSEN'S AVERSION TO A UNION WHICH WOULD HAVE MUCH POLITICAL (LET ALONG DEFENSE) CONTENT.

3. COMMENT: JORGENSEN'S STATEMENT EMPHASIZES AGAIN THE DANISH TOOCHINESS, MOST NOTABLE AMONG THE GOVERNING SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, ON ANY MOVEMENT TOWARD THE TYPE OF EUROPEAN UNION WHICH HAS BEEN FORESEEN BY MOST OF ITS PROPONENTS IN RECENT DECADES. IT WILL TAKE MUCH LIVING AND WORKING TOGETHER IN EUROPE BEFORE THIS DEEPLY INGRAINED ATTITUDE MELLOWS. THE PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENTS ARE A PUBLIC REFLECTION OF THE VIEWS GIVEN US BY UNDER SECRETARY CHRISTENSEN (COPENHAGEN 1922) WHO MAINTAINED THAT THE TALK OF CREATING NEW EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS DISTRACTS FROM THE DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX PRACTICAL ISSUES WHICH ARE CRYING FOR ATTENTION.

4. BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS IS LIKELY TO FIND THE GOING ALL UPHILL WHEN HE COMES TO COPENHAGEN IN OCTOBER TO TALK ABOUT EUROPEAN UNION.
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